

Phoenix South and Sonoran Desert National Monument Preliminary Draft Goals

PHOENIX SOUTH

Overarching Goals

Resource Goal –

- Manage natural and cultural resources to ensure that these resources are maintained, enhanced, restored, or preserved in a healthy condition for use by current and future generations consistent with the concepts of multiple use and sustained yield.

Recreation Goal–

- Provide a diverse array of recreation settings, opportunities, and experiences to meet the needs of the public land users, consistent with resource protection goals.

Safety Goal –

- Manage public lands in a manner that promotes public health and safety.

Commercial Resource Use Goal –

- Manage commercial and industrial use of public lands to meet community needs, benefit the public, and obtain economic return consistent with other resource management responsibilities.

Land Management Compatibility Goal –

- Promote compatibility between the management of public and adjacent lands.

Interagency and Community Partnerships –

- Encourage interagency and community partnerships to enhance effective management of public lands.

Resource-Specific Goals

Air Quality –

- Manage use *on public lands* to be consistent with air quality standards.

Watersheds–

- Manage watersheds to maintain or enhance healthy ecosystems, water quality, and water quantity.

Watersheds (Soils) –

- Manage the public lands such that erosion and sedimentation rates are appropriate to soil types and landforms.
- Conserve sensitive soils such as desert pavement and cryptogamic soils.

Watersheds (Water) –

- Manage surface and groundwater resources to protect, maintain, and improve water quality in accordance with water quality standards.
- Protect water supply to provide for the needs of the biota and other natural resources

Geology–

- Protect and conserve unique geologic resources.

Paleontology–

- Protect and conserve significant paleontological resources.

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Cultural –

- Protect and conserve cultural resources including the full range of site types.
- Conserve, protect, and manage cultural landscapes, sites, and the historic/prehistoric context.

Biological Resources –

- Maintain or restore ecosystem health and native biodiversity.
- Conserve and recover T&E species and their habitat and manage to prevent the listing of additional species.
- Conserve, restore or enhance native wildlife populations and their habitats.
- Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife corridors.
- Maintain habitat connectivity and limit habitat fragmentation.
- Restore, protect, or enhance the diversity and distribution of natural vegetation communities.
- Manage invasive species to limit their impact on natural resources and processes.

Wildfire –

- Suppress wildfire *on public lands* in the shortest practical time.
- Reduce the risk of wildfire, if necessary.

Visual –

- Conserve visual and aesthetic integrity and diversity.
- Manage public lands to protect scenic quality, especially to maintain predominantly natural landscapes.

Wild Horses and Burros –

- Manage wild horses and burros in accordance with the Wild and Free-roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

Grazing –

- Manage livestock grazing consistent with maintaining healthy ecosystems and the concepts of multiple use and sustained yield.
- Grazing allotments will be reclassified, including the designation of ephemeral range, for management of vegetation and ecological processes as determined through the Arizona Land Health Standards allotment evaluation process.

Utility Corridors –

- Manage utility corridors to support industry demand and community growth in consideration of other resource values.
- Encourage placement of major utility rights-of-way within designated corridors.

Lands and Realty –

- Consolidate landholdings by retaining, acquiring, and disposing of public land or interest in land (surface and subsurface estate) to further the resource goals and meet community needs.
- Support allowable public uses through land use authorizations and rights-of-way.

Minerals–

- Provide opportunities for exploration and development of energy and mineral resources.

Renewable Energy–

- Support development of renewable energy resources.

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Recreation–

- Manage commercial, competitive, organized or large groups/events, and special area recreation activities in accordance with resource protection goals.
- Manage recreational use to reduce conflicts among various users.
- Maintain primitive recreational opportunities and experiences.
- Direct intensive use to areas that are environmentally suitable for such use.
- Provide developed facilities where necessary to support recreational demand emphasizing resource protection, and public health and safety.
- Limit or restrict recreational activities where necessary to protect resource values or provide for public health and safety.
- Provide recreational opportunities, where feasible, for the use and enjoyment by people with disabilities.

Transportation and Access –

- Develop and maintain a transportation system to support administrative, public, and commercial access and activities.
- Develop and maintain legal access to public lands for administrative and public use.
- Manage access as necessary to protect and conserve sensitive resources or enhance/address public safety.
- Coordinate transportation system with adjoining land managers to manage public access and safety.

Native American Relations –

- Promote and maintain government-to-government relationships with Native Americans to ensure that their interests are recognized and considered.
- Provide and maintain Native American access to TCPs, sacred sites, and traditional use areas.

Partnerships and Socioeconomics –

- Engage the public, organizations, agencies, and tribes to foster partnerships in the stewardship and management of the public lands.
- Manage public lands and pursue partnerships to provide social and economic benefits to current and future generations.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Overarching Goals

- Assign the highest planning and management priority to the protection of the cultural, biological, physical, and scientific resources for which the Monument was created.
- Protect, restore, maintain, and manage the native biological diversity and associated values of the Monument within their broader ecosystem context with particular attention to retaining connectivity with other natural areas and conserving habitats for viable populations of a full range of native species.
- Protect and manage the cultural resources of the Monument paying particular attention to the cultural landscape and the relationship of individual sites to the larger landscape.

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- Encourage scientific research that aims to expand understanding and improve management of Sonoran Desert resources.
- Develop outreach programs that build constituencies, and expand understanding and appreciation of the Monument and its resources.
- Distribute safety and educational information to the public to allow for an enjoyable experience at the Monument.
- Manage natural and social settings to protect the undeveloped and natural character of the Monument, while providing opportunities for compatible, sustainable public use and enjoyment.
- Manage the Monument in a manner that promotes public health and safety.

Resource-Specific Goals

Air Quality –

- Manage use on the Monument to be consistent with air quality standards.
- Work with state and local agencies and adjacent land managers to address off-site emissions.

Watersheds–

- Manage watersheds to maintain or restore healthy ecosystems, water quality, and water quantity.

Watersheds (Soils) –

- Manage the Monument such that erosion and sedimentation rates are appropriate to soil types and landforms.
- Conserve sensitive soils such as desert pavement and cryptogamic soils.

Watersheds (Water) –

- Manage surface and groundwater resources to protect, maintain, and improve water quality in accordance with water quality standards.
- Protect water supply to provide for the needs of the Monument biota and other natural resources.

Geology–

- Protect and conserve geologic resources.

Paleontology–

- Protect and conserve paleontological resources.

Cultural –

- Protect and conserve cultural resources.
- Conserve, protect, and manage cultural landscapes, sites, and the historic/prehistoric context.

Biological Resources –

- Maintain or restore ecosystem health and native biodiversity.
- Conserve and recover T&E species and their habitats and manage to prevent the listing of additional species.

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- Conserve, restore or enhance native wildlife populations and their habitats.
- Maintain fire-dependent communities.
- Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife corridors.
- Maintain habitat connectivity and limit habitat fragmentation.
- Restore, protect, or enhance the diversity and distribution of natural vegetation communities.
- Manage invasive species to limit their impact on natural resources and processes.

Wildfire –

- Suppress wildfire in the Monument in the shortest practical time.
- Reduce the risk of wildfire, if necessary.

Visual –

- Conserve visual and aesthetic integrity and diversity.
- Manage the Monument to protect scenic quality, especially to maintain predominantly natural landscapes.

Grazing –

In accordance with the proclamation, the compatibility of grazing with protecting the management objects will be evaluated. The following goals would apply if grazing is found to be compatible. Under a no grazing alternative, the following goal would not apply.

- Manage livestock grazing north of Interstate 8 consistent with maintaining healthy ecosystems and protecting the monument resources.

Utility Corridors –

The following goals would apply if utility corridors are designated. If no utility corridors are designated, these goals would not apply.

- Manage utility corridors to support industry demand and community growth in consideration of other resource values.
- Place major utility rights-of-way within designated corridors.

Lands and Realty –

- Retain all public lands or interests in public lands (surface and subsurface estate) within the Monument other than exchanging land or interest in land to further the protective purposes of the Monument.
- Consolidate public lands by acquiring surface and subsurface inholdings.
- Place a high priority on the protection purposes of the Monument when considering applications for land use authorizations and rights-of-way.

Minerals and Energy-

- Minimize surface disturbance to the extent practicable and legally allowed during exploration and development of existing valid mineral rights.
- Reclaim mining sites to as near a natural condition as practicable and legally allowed.

Recreation–

- Manage recreation activities and settings to be consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument.
- Manage recreational use to reduce conflicts among various users.
- Maintain primitive recreational opportunities and experiences.
- Direct intensive use to areas that are compatible with the protection purposes of the monument and are environmentally suitable for such use.
- Develop facilities where required for resource protection or public health and safety.

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- Limit or restrict recreational activities where necessary to protect resource values or provide for public health and safety.
- Provide recreational opportunities, where feasible, for the use and enjoyment by people with disabilities.

Transportation and Access –

- Maintain a transportation and travel system consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument that supports administrative, public, and commercial access.
- Manage motorized and mechanized vehicle use to be consistent with the protection purposes of the Monument, and to promote safety and reduce conflicts among users.
- Develop and maintain legal access to public lands for administrative and public use.
- Coordinate the transportation system with adjoining land managers to manage public access and safety.

Native American Relations –

- Promote and maintain government-to-government relationships with Native Americans to ensure that their interests are recognized and considered.
- Provide and maintain Native American access to Traditional Cultural Properties, sacred sites, and traditional use areas.

Partnerships and socioeconomics –

- Engage the public, organizations, agencies, and tribes to foster partnerships in the stewardship and management of the Monument.
- Encourage development of visitor services in nearby communities.